

Department: FREN

Course No.: 3210 [210]

Title: French Art and Civilization

Contact Person: Roger Travis

Content Area: CA1- Arts and Humanities

Proposed Cat Copy: 3210. French Art and Civilization. First semester. Three credits. Recommended preparation: FREN 164 or 175 or three years of high school French or instructor consent. Studies of the arts in the cultural context of French and Francophone civilization, from the Middle Ages to the late nineteenth century. Considerations of social systems, passions, sexuality, relations of power in their manifestations in architecture, painting and sculpture. Some lectures by and discussions with experts from Anthropology, Music, Political Science, History, and Art History.

Course Information: A. Course Description. This course is an introduction to the history of France through art and cultural movements; we shall study the emergence of France as an idiosyncratic land from the gallo-roman period to the turning of the 20th century. It focuses on the artistic developments of each period, as related to ideology: romanesque and gothic art in relation to the Crusades, Renaissance art linked to Humanism, the Baroque Age as both cause and consequence to the catholic > Contre-Riforme, the Classical Age and the triumph of absolute monarchy, the time of the Lumihres as a preparation to the French Revolution, the innovations and changes introduced by political transformations during the 19th century. There are a few lectures by invited instructors of various disciplines, and a number of films and multi-medias presentations.

B Course requirements : Weekly research assignments; two quizzes, one mid-term and one final examination ; one oral presentation; one term-paper in the form of a Web-based URL Project.

C. Major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed.: The course introduces the students to a broad spectrum of texts and audio-visual material. They are taught to differentiate between different genres and to both recognize and use the attributes of that genre. The emphasis is placed on the relationship between historical and sociological phenomena, and the arts. The students are invited to explore the various manifestations of a culture and to develop a sense of historical evolution. They also learn to evaluate the material they are offered in terms of an interdisciplinary perspective.

CA1 Criteria: This course complements 261W, From the Holy Grail to the Revolution, in that it focuses on the visual arts. It emphasizes the link between history, the political and economical evolution of a civilization, and the artistic projects it produces. Instead of focusing on a purely literary approach, it

expands the students interests in other forms of culture, and tries to teach them the meaning of alterity through identity.